

Message Text

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SUBJECT: USDA PRESS RELEASE ON GRAIN SALES TO USSR

BRUSSELS FOR HARTMAN

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF USDA PRESS RELEASE ON RECENT US
GRAIN SALES TO USSR: BEGIN TEXT - " 3.4 MILLION METRIC
TONS OF CORN AND WHEAT SOLD TO USSR WASHINGTON, 4/28/76

THREE GRAIN EXPORT FIRMS TODAY REPORTED SALES OF 3.4 MILLION
METRIC TONS OF US CORN AND WHEAT TO RUSSIA INCLUDING THE
FIRST SALES UNDER THE LONG-TERM US/USSR GRAIN SUPPLY AGREE-
MENT, THE US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) ANNOUNCED.

THEY PUSHED SALES OF 1975 US WHEAT AND FEEDGRAINS TO RUSSIA
TO 15.8 MILLION TONS INCLUDING 11.4 MILLION TONS OF
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FEEDGRAINS AND 4.4 MILLION TONS OF WHEAT. IN ADDITION

THERE HAD BEEN SALES TO THE USSR OF 219,000 METRIC TONS OF SOYBEANS AND 64,000 TONS OF RICE FROM 1975 CROPS.

THE SALES WERE REPORTED BY THE EXPORT FIRMS IN LINE WITH A REQUIREMENT THAT THEY REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN 24 HOURS ANY SALES IN EXCESS OF 100,000 METRIC TONS.

THE SALES REPORTED TODAY INCLUDED 2 MILLION METRIC TONS "OLD CROP" CORN FOR DELIVERY BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 1976; 1.1 MILLION TONS OF "NEW CROP" CORN FOR DELIVERY AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1976 AND 300,000 METRIC TONS OF NEW CROP HARD RED WINTER WHEAT FOR DELIVERY AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1976.

THE SALES OF NEW CROP CORN AND WHEAT ARE THE FIRST REPORTED SALES UNDER THE 5-YEAR GRAIN SUPPLY AGREEMENT SIGNED BY THE UNITED STATES AND USSR LAST OCTOBER 20.

THAT AGREEMENT CALLS FOR THE USSR TO PURCHASE ANNUALLY FROM THE US A MINIMUM OF 6 MILLION METRIC TONS OF WHEAT AND CORN IN APPROXIMATELY EQUAL QUANTITIES DURING EACH YEAR OF THE AGREEMENT, WITH SHIPMENT TO BE BETWEEN OCTOBER 1 AND SEPTEMBER 30 OF EACH YEAR. THE AGREEMENT COVERS WHEAT AND CORN PURCHASED FOR SHIPMENT BETWEEN OCTOBER 1, 1976 AND SEPTEMBER 30, 1981.

THE AGREEMENT ALSO PROVIDES THAT WHENEVER THE US HAS A TOTAL SUPPLY OF GRAIN OF MORE THAN 225 MILLION METRIC TONS IN A GIVEN CROP MARKETING YEAR THE USSR HAS THE OPTION TO PURCHASE AN ADDITIONAL 2 MILLION METRIC TONS - OR A TOTAL OF 8 MILLION METRIC TONS OF WHEAT AND CORN - IN EACH CROP MARKETING YEAR WITHOUT CONSULTING THE US GOVERNMENT.

THE US SUPPLY OF TOTAL GRAIN FOR THE 1976/77 CROP MARKETING YEAR IS OFFICIALLY ESTIMATED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO BE 286.4 MILLION METRIC TONS." END TEXT. SISCO

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